Fourth Review Conference
of the Parties to the Treaty
on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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MESSAGE OF PRESIDENT GEORGE BUSH OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
TO THE FOURTH REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE TREATY
ON THE NON-PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

It gives me great pleasure to extend my very best wishes to the Fourth Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference as the Conference opens.

The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty reflects the long-standing desire of humankind to restrain permanently the spread of nuclear weapons and, at the same time, to find a secure way to utilize nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. For over two decades, the Treaty has stood as the principal barrier to the spread of nuclear weapons, and it remains a hallmark in our long quest for peace and for peaceful nuclear co-operation among nations.

The Non-Proliferation Treaty has the broadest support of any arms control agreement in history. That stands as testament to its enduring value in making our world a safer place in which to live. It has stimulated and encouraged arms control efforts leading to significant reductions in military arsenals. In buttressing our collective efforts to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons, the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty has created a framework in which parties to the Treaty can engage in peaceful nuclear co-operation, confident that safeguarded fissile material will not be diverted to build nuclear weapons. Complementing the Treaty is the International Atomic Energy Agency. Its contributions to the development of nuclear power have helped improve the quality of life around the globe, and its safeguards provide assurance to all States that the safeguarded activities are peaceful. Continued provision of this assurance is essential, and all members should work to further strengthen the International Atomic Energy Agency, which plays an indispensable role in the implementation of the Treaty.

The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty has been a success, and has made a significant contribution to international security and stability. It is in the interest of all mankind that States that have not adhered to the Treaty do so, and that all States fulfil their Treaty obligations promptly and in the spirit of co-operation which has marked the history of this Treaty. In this time of profound and rapid change, the Treaty's importance will continue to grow and to contribute to our common efforts to promote a more peaceful world. We, therefore, are strongly committed to the preservation and continuation of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and the institutions that support it.